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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/718,767	11/22/2000	Tsuyonobu Hatazawa	09792909-4673	2706

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EXAMINER

CREPEAU, JONATHAN

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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1746

DATE MAILED: 02/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/718,767

Applicant(s)

HATAZAWA ET AL.

Examiner

Jonathan S. Crepeau

Art Unit

1746

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2003.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. This Office action addresses claims 1-11. The claims are newly rejected under 35 USC §103, as necessitated by amendment. Accordingly, this action is made final.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. Claims 1-6 and 11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaloner-Gill (U.S. Patent 5,445,856) in view of Bullock et al (U.S. Patent 5,219,676).

Regarding claim 1, Chaloner-Gill teaches a nonaqueous electrolyte battery comprising a lithium metal anode (see column 3, line 40). Regarding claim 11, the battery is a secondary battery (see col. 3, line 31). With regard to claim 1, as shown in Figure 1, the battery element (10) is contained in an outer covering member composed of a laminated film (5) and is sealed by heat seals. The laminated film has two outer covering members, each having a recess therein (see Figs. 3 and 4). The laminate may be in the form of a single sheet, with the first and second covering members folded together and heat-sealed (see claims 8 and 17 of Chaloner-Gill). Regarding claims 1, 5, and 6, the battery comprises a gas absorbing material which is mixed with a resin material and extruded (i.e., molded) to form a gas absorbing member which forms one of the inner layers of the laminate (see col. 2, lines 48-63). Regarding claim 1, the gas absorbing material is present in a first gas absorbable member on a first side of the battery element (in member 30) and in a second gas absorbable member on a second side of the battery element (in

member 31) (see Figs. 1, 4, and 5). Regarding claims 2-4, the gas absorbing material may comprise a porous metal oxide (e.g., alumina) or activated carbon material (see col. 8, line 13).

The reference does not expressly teach that the gas absorbing material is present in an amount of 0.1 to 95 wt. percent on a basis of a weight of the resin material, as recited in claim 1.

However, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the artisan would be motivated to use a suitable amount of gas absorbing material based on the size of the battery and/or electrode element, thereby rendering the claimed range obvious. It has been held that the discovery of an optimum value of a result effective variable in a known process is ordinarily within the skill of the art. *In re Boesch*, 205 USPQ 215 (CCPA 1980). In this case, it is known that an amount of gas absorbing material can be selected based upon the size of the battery, as shown by column 6, lines 26-35 of Bullock et al.:

The amount of the gel will vary from battery size to battery size within the guidelines of being a sufficient quantity to absorb all water vapor produced during the self-discharge reactions. For normal 12V automobile batteries having six cells, the amount could range between about 50 grams to 300 grams. One skilled in the art could readily select a desiccant quantity by knowing the battery size, plate construction and volume of electrolyte left in the battery after the dumping step.

Although Bullock relates to lead-acid batteries, its teachings regarding the battery size would be applicable to all batteries employing a gas absorbing agent. Accordingly, the artisan would be motivated to use a suitable amount of gas absorbing material in the battery of Chaloner-Gill, thereby rendering the subject matter of claim 1 obvious.

3. Claims 7-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chaloner-Gill in view of Bullock et al. as applied to claims 1-6 and 11 above, in further view of Kamauchi et al (U.S. Patent 5,538,814).

Chaloner-Gill does not expressly teach that the electrolyte is a gel electrolyte (claim 7), that the negative electrode contains a carbon intercalation material (claims 8, 9), or that the positive electrode contains a composite oxide of lithium and a transition metal (claim 10).

The patent of Kamauchi et al is directed to a lithium secondary battery. The battery may contain lithium cobalt oxide in the positive electrode (col. 4, line 30), a carbon negative electrode (col. 7, line 7), and a gel electrolyte containing a high molecular weight matrix polymer (col. 8, line 67; col. 11, line 5).

Therefore, the invention as a whole would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made because the disclosure of Kamauchi et al. provides the artisan sufficient motivation to use these materials in the battery of Chaloner-Gill. In column 4, line 41, Kamauchi et al. teach that the lithium cobalt oxide, when combined with other materials, provides the battery with "high electromotive force," and in column 7, lines 6-9, the reference teaches that the carbon negative electrode "effectively prevents dendrite[s] without lowering energy density of the secondary battery." Further, the reference teaches in column 12, lines 46-59 that the gel electrolyte "shows good adhesion with electrodes, which leads to an improved ionic conductivity." Accordingly, the artisan would be motivated to use each of these materials in the battery of Chaloner-Gill.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed June 27, 2003 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive insofar as they apply to the present rejections. Applicants assert that Chaloner-Gill (WO 95/13629) "fails to disclose or suggest a first outer covering member having a recess accommodating a battery element. Instead, *Chaloner-Gill* merely discloses two flat panels 30 and 31 that both flex around a battery element." In response, it is submitted that the flexing of the member and the formation of a recess in the member are not mutually exclusive. The structure shown in Figures 3 and 4 of either Chaloner-Gill reference, in its final form, may reasonably be termed a "recess." Applicant's apparent intent is to distinguish the claimed "recess" from the structure of Chaloner-Gill by calling attention to the rigidity and/or prefabricated nature of the claimed recess. However, neither of these limitations are claimed. Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*, 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993). It is further noted that incorporating such features into the claims would require further consideration of the prior art and would not necessarily render the claims allowable.

Conclusion

5. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

Art Unit: 1746

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jonathan Crepeau whose telephone number is (571) 272-1299. The examiner can normally be reached Monday-Friday from 9:30 AM - 6:00 PM EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Randy Gulakowski, can be reached at (571) 272-1302. The phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 272-1700. Documents may be faxed to the central fax server at (703) 872-9306.

Jonathan Crepeau
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 1746
February 10, 2004

Bruce Bell
BRUCE F. BELL
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 1746